121. The establishment of public libraries in all the important centres of the State.

Mr. P. Manthramoorthi Pillai (Member, T. I. C., Nagercoil) said that one of the best and easiest methods of spreading knowledge was through the establishment of libraries and reading rooms in the State. He referred to the "Valliyur Sali Gottrabhi Vridhi Sangom Library" at Vadasseri and said that it served a useful purpose as a means of popular education. In the name of that Sangom, he requested that the Government might be pleased to extend their wonted generosity to that infant institution, which was started to promote the cause of one of the educationally backward classes in the State, *viz.*, the Saliars.

In Baroda, a good many public libraries were maintained at the sole cost of the Government. A similar library system had been recently started in the State of Mysore also. In Bombay, the Local Service League had instituted free travelling libraries. The Member therefore argued that the subject of free libraries should receive the serious consideration of the Government. He next referred to the Trivandrum Public Library and pointed out that the collection of works and periodicals in Malayalam and Tamil was exceedingly poor. The necessity of a good Malayalam and Tamil library in the State was seriously felt. He therefore requested that the Government should take up the question without delay and establish, at the start, libraries in the towns of Nagercoil, Quilon, Alleppey, Kottayam and Parur.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

122. The disabilities of the Kaniyar community in the matter of education.

Mr. M. K. Padmanabha Kaniyar (Member, Nominated) said that the Kaniyars numbered about 11,987 in the State and that, out of those, only seven had knowledge of English. Replying to the Dewan he said that none of the seven men had passed any examination. The community was comparatively poor both in numbers and in wealth, and it had not yet obtained any assistance from the Government in the matter of its English education or in political preferment. He added that the community could not advance or progress without substantial help from the Government. The community possessed amongst its members some who were cultured in Sanskrit and Malayalam and who were experts in Astrology and Ayurvedic treatment. He requested that they should be encouraged by the Government and that, in matters educational, the members of his community should be granted concessions similar to those already granted to Mahomedans and other educationally backward classes in the State.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

123. The grivances of the Ezhava community in the matter of education.

Mr. N. Kumaran Asan (Member, Nominated) thanked His Highness' Government for opening the Ayurveda Patasala to the Ezhavas also. He then said that the following were some of the grievances of the community in matters educational :—

(1) The Sanskrit Patasala had been raised to the status of a College. Admission to that College was however not open to Ezhavas. That disability should be removed as early as possible.

(2) As a result of repeated representations, most of the Elementary Boys' and Girls' Schools in the State were declared open to the Ezhavas. But, in spite of the orders of the Government, the Ezhavas failed to secure admission to many of those schools and there remained others which the Government had not yet thrown open to the community. The objections that had been raised or would be raised in the case of the latter were frivolous such as the existence of a temple, *kavu*, *prathishta* or tank near the schools. A careful enquiry would show that the temples, tanks &c., were not situated in objectionable proximity and that the Ezhavas enjoyed right of way within equal distances in other places. As instances of schools into which the children of the community were denied access, he mentioned the following :—

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(1) L. G. E. Girls' School, Thanneermukkom. A Boys' School had been constructed at the place by the Ezhavas, into which Ezhava girls had admission. When a separate Girls' School was put up, the Ezhava girls were refused admission into it. They had presented petitions about it both to the Director of Public Instruction and the Inspectress of Schools.

(2) Vayalar Proverthy School, Pattanakad. The School stood in an unobjectionable locality, but, owing to the objection of the Nairs to whom the site belonged, admission had not been secured. At the instance of the department, the Ezhavas had acquired a site three years ago for putting up a school, but no further action had been taken in the matter.

(3) Uzhuva Girls' School in Vayalar. The only objection in regard to that school was the want of Government sanction throwing open the school to the Ezhava girls.

(4) Kottarom L. G. E. School in Vayalar. The temple adjoining the School was situated at a good distance.

(5) Kodamthuruthu L. G. E. School, Thuravur.

(6) Eramallur H. G. E. School, Thuravur.

(7) Kuthiathode L. G. E. School, Thuravur.

(8) Ezhupunnam L. G. E. School, Arur.

(9) Ariad L. G. E. School.

(10) Shertallai Girls' School.

(11) L. G. E. Schools for Girls and Boys at Vaikom. The schools stood at a place over which the Ezhavas had a right of way. A sign-board had been put up some six years ago prohibiting the access of the Ezhavas to the locality.

(12) Thripattukulam L. G. E. School for Boys and Girls, Panavalli.

(13) Anaparambu L. G. E. Grant-in-aid School, Neerettupuram. Ezhavas were refused admission to the school, though, under the orders of the Inspector, Kaniyans, Pulluvans, Valans and Thatchans were being freely admitted.

(14) Thalavadi Thekkemuri H. G. E. School.

(15) A Girls' School near the Thalavoor school was also closed against them for want of accommodation.

(16) Edanad L. G. E. School, Chengannur.

(17) Arunmula L. G. E. School.

(18) Omallur Girls' School.

(19) Pandalam Thattayil L. G. E. School.

(20) Uzhuvanna Girls' School.

(21) Bhagavatipadikal Girls' School. The school was located on the roadside away from the densely populated area.

(22) Kumarapuram L. G. E. School. The objection was on account of a *Kavu* which was far away from the school.

(23) Thettikuzhi L. G. E. School, Nurnad.

(24) Puthiyedathu Boys' School, Kayenkulam. The Puthiyedathu temple was situated far away from the temple. There was even an Ezhava Munshi in the school some time back.

(25) H. G. E. School for Girls', Haripad. The school was originally near the Haripad temple. It had since been removed to another place and a costly building constructed. Objection was now raised that the school was close to a *Kavu*. It was a real grievance that such frivolous objections should be raised.

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He observed that the list was not exhaustive and that admission into the above schools was refused on no reasonable grounds. The antipathy of other castes and the unhealthy feeling that the Ezhavas were untouchables accounted for the difficulties of admission. The Government should not encourage that attitude. He added that, if an accurate and exhaustive list of schools into which admission was refused to Ezhavas be called for from the Director of Public Instruction, the Government could realize the enormity of the injustice done to the community which, in numercial strength and wealth, was not by any means a negligible factor in the State. He requested that a special enquiry should be instituted into the matter and the admission of Ezhavas enforced into all the schools, within a period of one year.

(3) He also referred to the tone of official correspondence in some of the communications addressed by the officers of the Education Department to the Ezhavas. The description of the community as one of low caste (താഴ്ന്നജാതി) was, he said, highly objectionable and should be avoided especially in official communications.

Mr. Sankaran Kochukunju Channar (Member, Nominated) said that he fully supported all that Mr. Kumaran Asan had said.

Mr. K. Krishna Panicken (Member, Nominated) said that he would not be satisfied with an enquiry and the subsequent admission of Ezhava boys and girls into such of the schools as were situated in unobjectionable localities. On the other hand, he strongly urged the need for freely admitting Ezhavas into every one of the Boys' and Girls' Schools in the State, as any exception in that respect would act as a serious impediment to the progress of the community.

Dewan's reply.—The representations of the Members are noted and the necessary enquiry will be made.

124. The removal of the disabilities of the Pulayas in the matter of education.

Mr. Ayyan Kali (Member, Nominated) expressed the gratitude of his community to the Government for allowing the Pulaya children admission into Sirkar Schools in the State. He, however, said that, in spite of such permission from the Government, there was still great difficulty in gaining admission into schools. It was the teachers of some of the Elementary schools in collusion with their friends that threw obstacles in the way of the Pulaya children gaining such admission. Those teachers should be told what the policy of the Government in the matter was and they should not be allowed to disregard the orders of the Government. He submitted that an exemplary punishment to a few of the delinquent teachers would alone bring about the desired effect. The Member pointed out that the members of his community asked only for instruction and that they did not want to come into conflict with other classes. He therefore suggested that a responsible officer of the Education Department be deputed to investigate, in conjunction with a representative of his community, into the existing disabilities of that class in matters educational, and to suggest measures for the removal of those disabilities.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

The Assembly adjourned at 5-45 P. M.

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